

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for storing memory card usage information on a memory card, comprising the steps of:
collecting information about usage;
recording the information about usage in an area of the memory card; and
accessing the information about usage.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the monitoring step comprises monitoring write events, read events and power-on events.
3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the collecting step comprises changing a count associated with an event descriptor when the event occurs.
4. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the collecting step comprises storing a value parameter associated with said event descriptor when the event occurs.
5. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the collecting step comprises changing a memory tally associated with said event descriptor when the event occurs.
6. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the recording step comprises recording the information about usage in a dedicated area in said memory card.
7. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the recording step comprises recording the information about usage in a non-user accessible area of memory.

8. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the collecting step comprises changing a count associated with an event description when the event occurs; and wherein the accessing step comprises displaying the count.

9. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of event descriptors; and wherein said accessing step comprises displaying a plurality of the event descriptors, wherein each of the displayed plurality of events descriptors is selectable, so that on selection, additional usage information will be displayed that is associated with that selected event descriptor.

10. The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the displaying step is performed at a host.

11. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the accessing step comprises displaying substantially real-time information about usage in a window on a screen at a host.

12. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of creating write and read commands allowing the host to store the information about usage and read that information.

13. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the collecting step comprises changing a count associated with an event descriptor when the event occurs; and further comprising the steps of comparing the count to a threshold, and if the threshold is equaled or exceeded, then causing a message to be sent.

14. A data structure in a memory card, comprising, computer readable storage containing an event descriptor, and for each event descriptor a count representing the number of occurrences of that event.

15. A data structure as defined in claim 13, further comprising for each of a plurality of event descriptors an amount of memory used by that aggregation of event descriptors.

16. A system for storing memory card usage information on a memory card, comprising:

- a component for collecting information about usage;
- a component for recording the information about usage in an area of the memory card; and
- a component for accessing the information about usage.